THE LILY.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF WOMAN.

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THE LILY,

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Written for The Lily.

ANGEL'S PRESENCE.

BY MRS. M. ANGELINE MERRITT.

'Tis said that when the shades of night,
Bring hearth and home, to weary men,
And Cynthia's beams all bathed in light,
Drop radiance down o'er hill and glen,—
When zephyrs dancing on the leaves,
Play welcome to each starry guest,
And wooed to dreams by passing breeze,
The clouds lay slumbering in the west—
That Angels leave yon Heaven's dome,
And claim earth's trysting as their own.

Aye! list their tones some Sabbath even,
When almost past the holy day,
Its hours melt in seeming heaven,
As twilight shades dissolve away.
Aye, list! when on the lambent air,
There floats the sound of vesper bell,
Breathing a magic round thee there,
Which all may feel, but few can tell!
List! for the low impassioned song
Of Angels sweeps the air along!

And what their mission, but to bless,
By bringing Heaven to earth again,
Exhibiting its loveliness
To charm the eye of fallen man;
Presenting to their gaze that dower,
The sacred Lamb of Calvary!
Whose sacrifice hath ample power
To cleanse all sin and guilt away:
To man they bear it, from above,
The story of redeeming love!

And, Oh! if *all* but felt the power
Of Christ *abiding* in the heart,
How blest would prove this mortal hour,
How sweet to bear a creature's part!
Then tyranny, and war, and sin
Of every shade, would flee away,
And perfect love would usher in
The dawning of that welcome day,
When wrong and grief would all be o'er,
Nor man would tempt his brother more.

How all might bless, if but their will
Were not of life a thing apart;
To turn away all needless ill,
And fill with joy a fellow's heart.
And is it 'neath a creature's care,
When God dispatched from worlds of bliss
To bring the joys o'erflowing there,
To mingle with the cares of this?
And Angels bring these blessings down
Salvation's heirs to guide and crown.

If aught there be of good on earth,
'Tis but a gift of heavenly love:
And though it *seem* of mortal birth,
It hath its unction from above.
So deeds, and loves, and sympathies,
And labors, all for human weal,
Are but angelic ministries
Inspiring what we ought to feel.
If *mortals* e'er have good conferred,
The fount was surely "Angel stirred."

PLYMOUTH, Mich.

[ORIGINAL.]

THE DRUNKARD'S WIFE.

BY ANNA E. JOHNSON.

SISTER, have you in your gentle, clinging, woman's trustfulness, looked to some wise head and powerful arm to guide you, and support your uncertain steps up to life's fullest usefulness in benefiting your fellow men,—earth's highest happiness in glorifying your God? Have you looked up to this being until to your partial vision he dropped the humble garb of humanity, and you arrayed him in the habiliments of infallibility, and your love and trust became worship—idolatry? Then, have you seen this being that you have sinfully deified, divest himself of these glories, and lay them one by one, with shame and dishonor in the dust? Have you seen the wisdom you have well nigh worshipped sink to worse than idiocy?—the affectionate lip, whose warm love-kiss sent life's sanguinary current in wild transport through your veins, become loaded with blasphemies that freeze your blood with horror?—that clear, truthful eye, whose approving glance was so eagerly sought, lose its heavenly light and wondrous power over the soul, and become a thing to dread?—filmy—fiendish!—the dear hand, whose fond caress brought such bliss to the heart as woman alone can know, but which her tongue and pen will ever fail to describe—alas! have you lived to see that too become an instrument of dread and torture, from whose touch you shrink as from the sting of a reptile?—and that strong arm, to which you clung in love and pride, and vainly fancied 't would be your stay and support while earthly support was needed, become touched with childlike weakness?—the palsy of indulged crime fall upon his whole intellectual, moral and physical nature, and the heart's idol become a sickening, loathesome, disgusting wretch, who has willfully, willingly extinguished the God-given light of his own soul, and has heaped impenetrable clouds and darkness between himself and every one that loved him?

Ah! my friend, until you have seen and suffered all this, you can never, never, fully sympathize with the drunkard's wife;—and that you may never be called to drink this most bitter cup, is the sincere prayer of the writer of the following sketch.

Several years ago, while visiting some friends at the thriving village of C———, in the central part of New York, my attention had been called to a fine carriage drawn by a noble pair of horses, which passed the house very often,—sometimes occupied by a gentleman alone, but on pleasant afternoons he would occasionally be accompanied by a delicate, beautiful looking girl. It required no very rigid scrutiny of their handsome faces to detect the relationship they held to each other; (for who will say a relation of hearts, is not as sacred as any ties of consanguinity?)

They had not passed many times before I had read very much that afterward proved true respecting them. It required no spiritual media, farther than most mortals are blessed with, a pair of good eyes and a moderate share of discernment, to read in her slightly reclining posture, and the blissful, devoted glance of her upturned blue eye, that the heart of the poor girl had escaped from her gentle control; and that she almost feared the power she loved to feel her heart's keeper, exercised over his too willing prisoner. It required but little farther scrutiny to perceive a great difference between the two; an ascendancy of the animal nature over the spiritual, in the handsome face of the gentleman, for his lip lacked firmness, and his whole manner that quiet dignity that a person only acquires by steady self-control.

Exactly the reverse of this was true of the lady. "She looked like one whose whole existence was the outpouring of rich and deep affections;" while he, though gifted with fine face and proud manly form, looked like one who loved himself o'er-well. Being an invalid, and having but little to occupy my attention, I had often made these observations as they drove slowly past my window, and they would probably ever have remained among the buried and forgotten dreams and fancies of the past, had not recent circumstances called them up again to life. I found on enquiring of my friends, that the young lady was under the care of an uncle, and was attending the seminary at that place. I think she must have played truant frequently, however, from the number of her rides. The gentleman was visiting some friends at the village, and judging from the length of his stay, he must have been pleased with his entertainment.

Several years after, as the business of my husband was in future to be of a more settled nature, he purchased a farm in the county of C———, and my health being somewhat recruited, it was decided that I should once more take upon myself the arduous duties of housekeeping. My friends not having great confidence in my strength, I was not permitted, much as I wished it, to go to the farm until the arrangements were all made, and the house settled. The evening of my arrival was delightfully pleasant, and I shall never forget the charming, cozy, comfortable look our little sitting room wore when I entered it worn and tired from our journey. I found with my sister a pale, lady like looking woman, whom I was told was our next neighbor. There was something in the face that struck me, but I could not tell whether it was the calm, enduring expression that I had seen in some one else, or whether I had seen that face before. Whatever it was it haunted my dreams. It was not beautiful; but there rested upon it that sweet, resigned, sorrowful look, which we might fancy an angel would wear, after long watching over some wandering, unrepenting heart it would fain win back to virtue and to God.

The next Sabbath afternoon being warm and pleasant, I was allowed by my too kind friends to take a short walk; and in the course of it we came in sight of an unpretending farm house, where I was told the lady I have mentioned, Mrs. T———, lived. After some persuasion on my part, my friends consented to call. There was a something

about the house which struck one as uncomfortable,—a bare, uncultivated look about the yard, and a lack of order about the out-houses. This is too often the case in our farm arrangements, where, of all places, a love of order and beauty should be cultivated. We were received at the door by the lady of the house, Mrs. T———, who invited us into a very pleasantly fitted up, but plain little sitting room. She excused herself to call her husband, whom she said had lain down, and on her return brought in her children, two perfect little cherubs. I think I never saw a human face so bewitchingly beautiful as that of the babe. I am passionately fond of children, and my heart was instantly won by the readily offered kiss from the sweet mouth of the curly haired little Eddy.

I was so much occupied in fondling the little ones that I did not notice the entrance of Mr. T———, until my attention was called by my husband, followed by an introduction. The moment my eyes rested upon him, I knew him to be the gentleman I had seen at C———, but how wonderfully changed. In place of the almost dandy of my former acquaintance, I saw before me a slovenly, unwashed, uncombed, unshaven being, in whose face and form low self-indulgence had began to make disgusting manifestations. I mentioned the circumstance of my having seen him at C———. "Yes," said he, "that was about the time I done my sparking." Mrs. T——— reddened deeply at the coarseness of the remark, and the low brutal way in which it was said; and to relieve our embarrassment, I again turned my attention to the children. The remainder of our call was restrained and uncomfortable, and we remained but a short time.

My heart that evening was heavy. There was a heart-broken gentleness about that woman's manner—a look from the eye that reminded one of unshed tears, which touched my sympathies and led them out in longing tenderness, to suffer with one whom I knew had lavished the wealth of a refined, high-born, loving heart, upon a clod with too much selfishness to care though he crushed the life from that affection by his indifference, and too little sense and refinement to fear lest he should turn her clinging devotedness into loathing and disgust by his coarseness and brutality.

I could not get these people from my mind, but said little about them until myself and husband were alone, when he remarked my sadness and asked its cause; and upon my mentioning my feelings, and remarking the great difference in the dashing young man I had seen at C———, and the coarse, negligent, ungentlemanly being who had that afternoon so shocked us all by his low, vulgar language and brutal manners, he replied that the change was easily accounted for in his *intemperance*. The word fell upon my heart like ice; for I had not even thought of that; and for certain reasons I will not here stop to explain, I had a strange horror of one who could debase his nature and deprive himself of his humanity by so mean and weak a vice; and the thought that this gentle, shrinking, sensitive woman, and those sweet babes, should be degraded to association with, and be in the power of such a self-made madman, was too terrible; my heart ached for them.

During the ensuing summer and fall we saw but little of our neighbors, only exchanging calls with them occasionally; for Mrs. T——— was too proud to seek sympathy, and we had too much delicacy to offer it. But one afternoon in the following December, she came to the door in a state of high excitement, and enquired for Mr. A———, saying her husband had been thrown from his horse, and was lying some distance from the house, and she was unable to remove him home. Mr. A——— and myself repaired immediately, under her direction, to the spot, where we found Mr. T——— lying on the hard frozen ground in a state of brutal intoxication,—his head and face bleeding profusely from the effects of the fall. With the assistance of a laborer, Mr. A——— carried the poor wretch home, (if the house of a drunkard is worthy that title,) while I followed with Mrs. T———, trying to comfort her; for she was wringing her hands and weeping bitterly. On arriving at the house Mr. T——— was laid upon the bed, and from the change of position, or from the loss of blood, he had fainted. His wife evidently thought him dead, for she hung over him in inexpressible agony. The whole fountain of her woman's tenderness was broken up. She called upon him by every endearing title to look upon and speak to her once more; she kissed his pale lips, and pressed him lovingly to her heart, as if she fain would have poured out its life blood to renew and quicken the tide that had ceased flowing in the heart of him who, though so debased and unworthy, she still loved so well and truly.

After the proper means were used he revived, and his wounds were dressed by a physician. He soon became more comfortable, and his wife more calm; and after doing all for their comfort that could be done, we returned home. During the confinement of Mr. T———, in consequence of his injuries, I was much with them, and Mrs. T——— and myself became like sisters. She poured out her bitter sorrows into my sympathizing heart, and we hoped and suffered together; but all our plans to win the miserable weak victim from the jaws of destruction were utterly unavailing. He was treading slowly but surely "the downward road that leads to death;" and all the efforts of his friends to make the path of virtue attractive to him, only served to render it more obnoxious.

Thus steadily he went down, until pinching want with its meager train looked in at the drunkard's door. Poverty, with love and hope to strengthen the soul, is endurable; but God pity the heart where prospect of no brighter morrow dawns upon it!—where poverty cramps and hampers the body, while despair sits on the throne of the soul! The poor wife struggled on, hoping against hope, until life became a protracted agony,—and worst and bitterest of all, she saw in her sons the springing up of the fatal seed that parental example had planted in the heart of the child. Alas! she had lived to hear, in spite of tears and prayers, the name of her God unblushingly blasphemed by her own offspring.

Several years after our removal to this part of the country, one cold stormy night, we were startled by the hasty, unannounced entrance of Mrs. T———, bearing her youngest child, a little girl not quite a year old, in her arms. She exclaimed wildly, as she sank exhausted in a seat, "he has killed her!" and from the misery of consciousness the poor worn out woman fainted. I caught the child from her, and on examination found the little creature had received a crushing blow on its fair white shoulders; and on parting the sunny hair, its head also showed marks of violence from the same instrument, which had so stunned and paralyzed it. 'Twas no wonder its poor mother thought it dead.

A physician was sent for, who found some of the bones in the neck or shoulder broken, which it was difficult to set without causing great pain to the little one. Oh! how I longed to suffer in its stead, as with the other arm it clung to my neck, and pressed its little cheek to mine, as if trying to draw help and strength from one it seemed to know was its friend; and its smothered moaning must have drawn tears from the hardest hearted. The poor woman was too weak to stand after the excitement and misery she had suffered. All the means in our power were exhausted in our efforts to render comfortable the mother and her child; and I had returned to the sitting room and was reading a chapter previous to retiring, when I was called again to the bedside of Mrs. T———. She could not rest while she knew that two of her children were in the power of one who had proved himself to be an irresponsible madman. I wondered I had not thought of that before. My husband and a hired man went to the house of Mr. T——— at once, and brought the children home with them. They found the inebriate in a drunken slumber, and had no trouble in removing the children. On visiting the room of my guests in the morning, I found Mrs. T——— suffering both physically and mentally, which had brought on a fever, and she was too ill to raise her head from the pillow. During that whole day the brutal husband and father did not come to inquire after his suffering wife and child. The next day her fever had somewhat abated, and she was making herself very miserable about taxing our hospitality so long; and I was trying, by repeated assurance, to convince her to the contrary, when some outbreak among the children who were playing in the room, attracted her attention, and she appeared to be very much shocked by the coarseness and profanity of her oldest son. The second one, little Eddie, with his curly hair, and wondrously beautiful face, God in his mercy had taken to Heaven, before his pure spirit had become contaminated by the pernicious example of a corrupt father; and now the mother could bless God for his goodness, although she thought the stroke so bitter when it fell. We had a long talk that afternoon, weak and feeble as she was. I advised her to break away from the influence of one so vile and unmanly as the creature to whom the law gave the title of *husband*, though he had violated, and so basely belied his marriage vows, and trampled upon every claim to that sacred title.

At length it was concluded that the boys were to be sent to a brother of Mrs. T.'s who resided in New Jersey, who was unmarried, and had often expressed a wish to adopt one of her children; and that she too would go there after her recovery, until some other plan for future usefulness could be adopted. At her dictation I wrote a letter to her brother, stating the case as it was, and committing the boys to his keeping. These resolutions were reached, and this letter written with many tears and much suffering; for her heart obstinately clung to that wreck of humanity, degraded as he was,—so true and constant is the love of woman. But she could not see her sons follow in his footsteps; and she saw them depart for their new home with a considerable degree of composure.

The sickness of my friend increased, and for weeks I hung over her bed and almost prayed that God would release her from the pains and cares of earth, and take her to the enjoyment of her heavenly rest. But he had willed it otherwise; her work on earth was not yet finished.

The wretched inebriate sometimes called to know when "the old woman," as he respectfully called his wife, "was coming home to get something to eat;" but he spent most of his time at a tavern a short distance off, in gambling, pitching quoits, and in the most degrading intoxication.

Some three weeks after Mrs. T——— became an inmate of our house, her brother arrived. The meeting between them was most affecting. The last time they met was at the wedding of the now heart-broken sister; she was then a happy, hoping bride, whose future was bright and promising; but those promises of happiness were never to meet a realizations on earth! These memories brought sadness to the hearts of both, and tears flowed profusely as they embraced each other. Mrs. T——— so far recovered as to be able to return home with her brother in a few weeks.

The last parting interview between the drunkard and his wife was indescribably touching. It was a cold evening that, upon which the brother, sister, and myself, rode over to the place my poor suffering friend had called home; for there were some little mementoes of her dead child, to which her crushed heart still clung; and wretched as was the habitation we were entering, it was all the place on earth she knew as home. We did not expect to find the inebriate there, but for some unknown cause he had returned earlier than usual, and was lying in a heavy, drunken slumber on the comfortless, filthy looking bed. After collecting the little remembrances of her dead darling, Mrs. T———, before leaving the room, took a long, lingering look at the shattered wreck that had once been her husband; she now felt that the relation no longer existed; for no law of man's making can bind a rational being, made in God's image, to a clod who has blotted that image from his own soul, and sunk himself lower than the beasts that perish. Still she gazed on him, "until the light of other days" came round her, and she saw him as he was before the destroyer set his seal upon him; and the fountain of her tenderness was broken up, and laying her head on the shoulder of her brother, she wept long and bitterly. We at length drew her tenderly from the spot, as if she had taken leave of the dead. Ah! was he not dead to her, to himself, to the world? This parting was the last; she never saw him more.

I have received many long, sisterly letters from her since she left me, and have written many in return. She wrote to me of herself and her chil-

dren; I to her of my hopes, my happiness and my husband; and one corner was for a long time reserved to write of one whom I knew she wished to hear from, though she seldom mentioned him; and all I had to say of him was dark and sad. He soon squandered the little property he had when she left him; and during the next winter he had a terrible fit of delirium tremens, and having no friends who were willing to take care of him, he was taken to the alms-house, where he finally died.

The trials of my poor friend were not to end here. The poison resulting from the corrupting association with, and evil example of a bad father, had infected the whole nature of her oldest son; "he neither feared God, nor regarded man;" and finally, becoming weary of the wholesome restraints of a virtuous home, he ran away and went to sea. In the letter in which she wrote this sad intelligence, she bitterly cursed her folly and madness in allowing a sinful passion for an unworthy object, so to blind her eyes and harden her heart, as to jeopardize the immortal souls of her children by subjecting them to so contaminating an influence. She has lived to see her other children grow up to honor and usefulness; to be a consolation to her broken heart—a support to her declining years.

True it is that she might, perhaps, have added much to the comfort of the miserable inebriate—perhaps have been the means of lengthening out his life for years; but think you, these desirable objects would be worth the price she must have paid for them?—the souls of her children! God has wisely ordered that the mother's love should be the ruling affection in the heart of woman; and let her ever prove true to her nature, and the high and holy trust that God has committed to her keeping.

Written for the Lily.

"GIVE UNTO CÆSAR THE THINGS WHICH ARE CÆSAR'S."

Mrs. Bloomer—I deem it due to Ohio's noble sons, who have, on several occasions in our Legislative Councils so bravely battled for the rights of women in our State, to make a few corrections of statements in "The Lily" of Jan. 2d. This I deem no less an act of justice to yourself and the cause you serve, for I presume you would desire to commence with a good understanding with the great Buckeye family, with whom you have so recently joined your interests; and also that you must be conscious that the great Reform in question would be materially retarded by mistatements and misapprehensions regarding woman's present rights and disabilities in Ohio. You say—

"Ohio is still far behind New York and other States on the question of Woman's Rights. The old rule of Common Law, which gives to the husband the entire control of the property of his wife, is still in full force here. Whether this enactment of a barberous age meets with the approval of the people generally or whether any effort has been made to repeal it, we are unable to say. We trust the women of the state will ere long be sufficiently aroused to demand that such a law be expunged from the statute books; and that they be allowed not only the right to their own property but the right to their own earnings also."

This cannot by any possible construction be considered the case with Ohio; except perhaps so far as the awakening of public sentiment, regarding woman's claim in the different States, may be compared to the disadvantage of Ohio beside New York, and even then I think considering the conservatism of the Eastern Cities, Ohio would not suffer by the comparison. Ohio was much in advance of New York in enacting a Law to contravene the force of the old rule of Common Law giving the husband the entire control of the wife's property, and indeed of nearly all of the Western and Eastern States. The Ohio Legislature as early as 1846 passed a Law giving to a married woman all her own property in monies, lands, tenements and personal property, either her's or bought with her own money before marraige, or given or bequeathed to her afterwards. This you will find in "Acts of a general nature," page 75, passed Feb. 28th, 1846. In the same year the Legislature passed a Law granting the wife, in case the husband endeavored to get her property into his possession, or to squander the same, or to convert it fraudulently to his own use, the right to file her bill in Chancery, or in the Supreme Court, or Court of Common Pleas; and these courts after hearing the same, have the power to restrain the husband from disposing of, or using the property held in her own right, and to appoint a receiver to manage and control it for her. This you will find in acts of a general nature, page 115, passed March 2d, 1846. Subsequently a Law was passed to amend the Act in relation to the interests of husbands in the estate of their wives, which defines the first act, and explains further that the wife's property shall not be liable for the husband's debts on execution. This you will find in Acts of a general nature, page 23, passed Feb. 5, 1847. Vide also Acts of a general nature, page 377, passed March 11th, 1853.

Waving all supposition of intentional misstatement on your part, I will proceed to give a succint statement of woman's legal rights and disabilities in Ohio.

1. A married woman has a legal bonafide right to her own property, with power to use, give, or bequeath the same to whomsoever she please.

2. The husband may not use, give, or bequeath his wife's property without her consent, without rendering himself liable to answer at a Legal Tribunal, which has full power to command him to restore the same.

3. If the husband reduces the wife's property to possession, by the usual means of reducing property to possession, the wife has *no* remedy.

4. If the married woman wills or bequeaths her property, the heirs, or the Legatee after her death *cannot* come into full possession of it while the husband lives, for he is Tenant by the courtesy as long as he lives.

5. The husband may give, bequeath or will all of their joint estate but one third, and his heirs or Legatees *may come* into full possession immediately after his demise.

6. The widow is entitled by law to the use of one third of the real estate left by the deceased husband, whether his, or their joint property; and to one year's support, and the right to live in the family mansion one year; to one half of the first four hundred dollars; to one third of the remaining monies; and to one third of the goods and chattels personal, her own clothing, and two beds and bedding if there are minor children, and a few tea cups, saucers, plates and spoons; some of the last mentioned must be rendered up when the minor is of age.

7. The widow may have her choice to accept under the will of her deceased husband, or to have her right of dower by law.

8. The widow may be administratrix, or she may be guardian for her own, or other minor children, but she may not *be both* at the same time, and in the same case.

9. If a widow being guardian for her own or for another minor, marries again, her *guardianship ceases*, and the court upon information may proceed to appoint another in her stead.

10. The man whom she marries *may be* chosen or appointed in her place. Thus the step-father may be guardian for her child, while *she may not.*

11. The father may give away or bind out to service or trade, his child; and he may appoint by will a guardian to his child, to continue during the minority of the child, even if the child be born after the will is made. Thus the father *may give away* the mother's offspring before it is born or afterwards; over the welfare of which she may have no legal control.

12. The wife may have jointure settled upon her previous to marriage, but she may not have jointure and dower too.

13. The widow may not have the benefit of the will of her deceased husband and dower too, unless the will specifies that this was the desire of the husband making the will.

14. A woman may hold property to the amount of $200, exempt from taxation.

15. A woman being the head of a family is entitled to the benefit of the Exemption law, which together with the property before exempted, amounts to about seven or eight hundred dollars.

16. The married woman has no legal right to her own earnings after marriage.

17. The married woman has *no right to her own clothing*, bought with her own, or husband's earnings, while he lives; neither to her jewelry and paraphernalia bought in the same way. Under the old common law she had these things by law, and her own earnings if she did business separately, or declared her intention to do so.

18. The wife being assaulted and cruelly treated by the husband, may be allowed her oath, provided she can swear she believes her life in danger, and the husband may be restrained of his liberty during the pleasure of the court, and compelled to give bonds to keep the peace; but she has no other remedy, unless she can prove cruel abuse by unimpeachable witnesses, and sue for divorce or alimony.

19. The mother has no legal control over her offspring except in case of illegitimate children.

20. Deeds and mortgages made by the husband will not deprive the wife of her thirds in such real estate, unless she, with her own free will and accord has signed them.

21. The bargains and contracts of the wife are not binding, and their joint property liable for the same, or the husband bound for them, unless they are made with the given or implied consent of the husband.

22. The husband must support his wife, but there is no penalty attached to the neglect of doing so, and no way to compel him to, unless his wife come upon the town or county for support, or apply to the courts.

23. In case of separation the husband need not support his wife unless she resides where he says, unless the court decree alimony.

24. In the law of Decents, an estate, not coming by decent, deed of gift, or devise, and there being no children, wife or husband, brothers or sisters of the whole, or half blood, or their legal representatives, ascends to the father; if the father be dead then to the mother. But if the estate come by descent, deed of gift, or devise, and there being no children, wife or husband, brothers or sisters of the whole or half blood, or their legal representatives, the estate ascends to the ancestors from whom it came, whether male or female.

25. There are ten causes of divorce to which both parties are answerable. First, Where there was another wife or husband at the time of marriage. Second, Willful absence three years. Third, Unfaithfulness. Fourth, Impotency. Fifth, Extreme cruelty. Sixth, Fraudulent contract. Seventh, Gross neglect of duty. Eighth, Habitual drunkenness for three years. Ninth, Imprisonment in the penitentiary. If the Decree is granted against the wife, she is barred of her Dower. If against the husband, she is entitled to Dower. Alimony is at the discretion of the court granting the Divorce. For the above causes, and also for the abandoning of the wife by the husband without good cause, Alimony may be sued for by the wife, and she may have also her own estate, and the right to do business in her own name, sue, and be sued. Tenth, Where one has obtained a divorce and left the other bound by decree in another State.

26. Males are minors until 21, Females until 18 years of age.

27. Women are disfranchised by the Constitution.

28. It is considered that women are eligible to the offices of Sheriff, Recorder, Postmistress, Clerks, and some of the Municipal offices. But they are ineligible to the Legislative, Judical, and Executive offices.

This is about the sum of the whole matter in the State of Ohio, upon which there might be much said to show injustice.

M. A. Bronson.

☞ **The amount of drunkenness prevalent in Columbus, this winter, is said to far exceed all former example. The grog shops are all doing a great business, and the results are such as always flow from the prosecution of the abominable traffic.**

Written for The Lily.

WOMAN'S RIGHTS AND WOMAN'S WRONGS ACCORDING TO LAW.

NO. II.

We have seen, in a preceeding number, that the Constitution of the United States does not preclude woman, in express terms at least, from the enjoyment of equal civil and political rights. We have seen also, that there is nothing in its provisions to prevent her from filling any office created by it.

But it is not for offices that woman is striving. These, with all their false show and glitter, could not induce her to enter upon the arduous work of convincing the world of the wrongs she has suffered at its hands. Woman has *rights* of greater importance to be vindicated, than the mere attainments of office, and it is for these that she is contending in the conflict of interests, of classes, and of sex, in which she is called to engage.

The General Government leaves the municipal regulations, and the local codes, which form the great body of our statutes, to be fixed by the several States. It results from this principle in our American jurisprudence, that the statutes of the General Government have seldom any direct bearing upon the particular rights of individuals. After guaranteeing to the several States a republican form of government, and declaring that no expost facto law, and no law impairing the obligations of contracts shall be passed, and that cruel and unusual punishments shall not be inflicted, it leaves the great questions of the relative rights and duties of individual members of the confederacy, to be regulated and defined by the law making power of the several States. The great body of the Laws, therefore, relate to the duties of the several officers of the General Government, and of the Army and Navy, and the regulations of the Territories, the collection of the National revenue, the custody and sale of the public lands, the coining of gold and silver, and granting of pensions to the officers and soldiers engaged its service.

There is little in the general provisions of these enactments, applicable to the subject under discussion. We will refer, however, to one or two of these classes of laws, the equitable provisions of which, are in marked contrast with those of nearly all the State governments. The laws granting pre-emption rights to the public lands, place the wife upon a footing of just equality with the husband. Where the head of a family enters upon such lands, and dies before the title is perfected, the patent or deed, when issued, goes to the widow, instead of the heirs of the husband. The act granting lands to settlers in Oregon, may well be cited in this connection. The act conveys to any unmarried man who shall settle upon, and occupy the public lands for the term of four years, 320 acres, and to any married man who shall do the same, "the quantity of one section, or six hundred and forty acres, one half to himself, *and the other half to his wife, to be held by her in her own right*," and to go to her own heirs in case of death. This law was passed in 1850, and surely the members of Congress who passed it, must have been good Woman's Rights men, and should therefore be held, for this act at least, in grateful remembrance by the women of Oregon. They recognized in the fullest manner in this law, the right of the wife to an equal moiety of the joint earnings of the husband and wife, and to the real estate which might be acquired as the fruit of their industry and perseverance.

Again, the Pension laws of the United States are based on correct principles. They not only grant Pensions, and Bounty Lands, to the widows of deceased soldiers, but they also, give to the widow, in preference to the children the amount of unpaid pensions due the pensioner at the time of his death. This rule is in direct contravention to the rule of the common law, which would in all cases, make the children the legal heirs to the whole, or the principal portion of such arrearages.

Finally, Women are citizens of the United States, and as much entitled to all its privileges as the most favored members of the community As such, they are entitled to the full protection of all their rights and interests. They may hold and convey property, unless disqualified by some act of the local legislature. They may formally appear in the courts of the United States to prosecute or defend their rights, as Mrs. Gaines has frequently done. They may hold offices, and receive pensions for meritorious conduct, enjoy the franking privilege, and lastly, they may receive passports to travel in foreign countries, and be entitled under them, to all the protection which the title of American citizen can bestow.

So much as to the rights to which women are entitled under the Constitution and Laws of the United States; and when the qualifications of voters in the States shall have been so far changed, as to acknowledge that woman is a part of "the People," there will be no obstacle in the way of placing her in a position, where those rights shall be fully recognized.

But until that day arrives, woman must continue to suffer at the hands of the General Government, many grievous wrongs. As now constituted she is most unjustly, and in defiance of the plainest provisions of the Constitution, excluded from any direct or controling influence in the conduct of National affairs. True, some of the laws of Congress bear, as we have seen, marks of a liberal spirit, but yet this is but the weight of a feather in the balance, when we consider that she is not allowed to be heard in the decision of questions of the greatest possible importance to her welfare.—To Congress is committed the sole power of declaring war and making peace,—the two highest duties that can possibly devolve upon the rulers of a free people. And how just is the claim of woman to be heard in the decision of so important a matter. War, to her, comes freighted with the most aggravated evils. It is the forerunner of desolated homes, of children made fatherless, and of life made wretched. In the wild tumult of passions, and of crimes. to which it leads, her voice is scarcely heard, and her prayers seldom listened to, but in silence and in gloom, in sorrow and in despair, she is compelled to mourn over the destruction of her fondest hopes and her most dearly cherished aspirations. Surely, it is the height of injustice to exclude woman from being heard in the decision of a question of such momentous importance to her happiness! Never may the most ardent advocates of peace, look on the realization of their schemes for the universal abrogation of war, until the voice of woman shall be heard in the councils of Nations, and her pleadings in the cause of humanity shall be responded to by instinctive chords of sympathy in the hearts of men.

Again, to Congress is committed the exclusive power of raising a National revenue, and for that purpose may levy and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises. These taxes, duties and imposts when thus levied, must be borne equally by all classes of the people. Property, in whose hands soever it may be held, must pay its equal proportion; and the duties upon imports, must in the end be paid by the consumers, whether they be male or female. And yet, as Congress is now constituted, these taxes and duties, in whatever form they may assume, are laid and collected alone by man, without deigning to consult woman in the matter. Three hundred and odd members of Congress, meeting in the National Capitol, take it upon themselves to decide not only how much money the thirteen millions of men in this Union, shall contribute to the National Treasury, and how they shall do it, but also how much and in what way, the thirteen millions of American Woman shall contribute, in the form of either direct or indirect taxation, to fill the National coffers. And this is done without so much as saying, "with your leave, Ladies." It is assumed as a right that is exercised without hindrance, and enforced without compunction. And this is done in the name, and by authority of a government, which owes its existence to a revolution that was commenced and prosecuted to its end, for the purpose of vindicating the principle that TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION IS TYRANNY!

CIVIS.

ACCORDING to the report of the Treasurer of Philadelphia, there is, in that county, one grog-shop to every fourty-four taxable inhabitants.

For The Lily.

WOMAN'S RIGHTS ARGUMENT.

MRS. BLOOMER—A few evenings since as I was sitting with the family circle in the house of a friend, my attention was engaged by a conversation which took place between the lady of the house, and a neighbor, (one of the opposite sex,) who had just dropped in for an hour's chat, of which the following is a correct report, as nearly as I can recollect:

Neighbor—Now do you really think, Mrs. ——, that Woman should have equal *rights* with man?

Lady—(With some spirit)—That question is an insult to the intelligence of any woman; But I will answer it by asking another. Can you show me any reason why *she should not* have rights equal with man?

Neighbor—(In a bland tone)—Why, yes I think I can; or at least, why she should not have the same *political rights.*

Lady—I should like to hear them.

Neighbor—Well, then, you know that it is nothing uncommon to have a rainy election day; and how would it look to see women trailing through the mud to town-meeting?

Lady—If the weather was so unfavorable they could stay at home, and still be as well off as they are now. But some could always go if disposed. Many have comfortable conveyances, and many live so near the usual places of gathering that they could step in and deposit a vote without any great inconvenience or exposure.

Neighbor—Now suppose the custom to be adopted, of man and woman both attending elections; who is to stay at home and take care of the babies, and cook the vituals? A man expects a good warm supper after being out all day in the cold electioneering, and attending to the good of his country—and he ought to have it. There's no use talking about it;—it would not be proper at all for women to vote.

Lady—I wonder you do not get up a petition to have the right of females to public worship abolished, because there is sometimes a rainy sabbath; and the husband and wife may not be able to leave home together.

Neighbor—Now, Mrs. ——, you profess to believe the Bible,—does not that book say that woman was created for man?

Lady—It does not say that she was created for any purpose to which man should think fit to appropriate her. Woman's *duties* and *obligations* are clearly and distinctly pointed out in the Bible, as well as those of man; and it is to the Bible we owe thanks for the degree of elevation to which we in enlightened countries have attained! The Bible is the only thing which has raised woman above the condition of a *slave;* and I believe that were its precepts fully understood, and properly taught, we should not have the cause of complaint we now have.

Neighbor—Well, now, suppose the reins of government should be given into the hands of the women, and they be allowed to *rule* for five years, what kind of work do you suppose we should have?

Lady—Probably not *worse* than we have had for the past five years. (Here the husband and head of the house joined in the coloquy.)

Husband—If the women want the privilege of voting so much, I wish they could have it. I'd vote to give them the right, and I'd like to have them get the power to manage the affairs of government in their own hands *for once,* just to show what work they would make of it.

Neighbor—I declare it would be sport; would'nt it neighbor D——? What kind of a government do you suppose they would have? Monarchy, wouldn't they?

Husband—They'd have no government *at all.* They are not capable of maintaining one. They do just as they have a mind to now, and have things all their own way, and they are not satisfied with that. Women are not half so much slaves as men are.

Here the coloquy ceased. The wife evidently felt the impropriety of contending with her husband—or perhaps she saw that the odds were against her. Be that as it may, disdaining farther remark, she quietly pursued her occupation of darning stockings. And the husband and neigh-

bor, after the relation of one or two stale anecdotes, designed to illustrate the doctrine of woman's inferiority, and which seemed to give infinite satisfaction to themselves, commenced a spirited conversation concerning farming affairs, improvement in stock, &c. Both were men of sense, and upon these topics they talked like men of sense; and no one who listened to their independent plans and proposals, could have supposed that the idea that they were subjected to woman's rule had ever entered the minds of either. I retired to rest, but the evening's conversation had aroused my dormant mind, and suggested a series of thoughts and observations, the result of which I propose to give you at some future time.

Yours, META MILLWOOD.

THE LILY.

MOUNT VERNON, OHIO, FEBRUARY 15, 1854.

THE LAWS OF OHIO.

One of our first enquiries on coming to Ohio, was in reference to the laws relating to the property rights of married women. A gentleman, of whom we made the enquiry, told us that the personal property of the wife became the property of the husband at marriage, and could be disposed of by him, or taken in payment of his debts. That the real estate owned by the wife at marriage, or that might come to her after marriage, by gift or devise, could not be sold, or otherwise disposed of by the husband without her consent, but that he was entitled to all the rents and profits of the same, and could dispose of them as he pleased. On the strength of this information, we stated in a leading editorial article in THE LILY for January 1st, that the laws of this State were behind those of New York in this respect, and that the Common Law, which gives to the husband the control of the property of the wife, was in full force here.—After writing that article, to make the matter more sure, we deputised a friend to enquire of some lawyer whether such were the facts of the case, and we were further assured by his reply that our statement was correct. And such we believed to be the case till we received the communication of MRS. BRONSON, which will be found in this number of THE LILY.

On the receipt of this communication, we at once submitted it to the examination of a lawyer, and he gives us the following reply:

"MRS. BRONSON is substantially correct in her statement of the laws of Ohio, so far as relates to the *personal property* which the wife possessed at the time of marriage, or which comes to her after marriage by gift or devise.

"In reference to the real estate she is also correct in stating that it cannot be disposed of, or sold without her consent; nor can it be taken in payment of her husband's debts; but he is nevertheless *entitled to the rents and profits of the same*—or in other words, to the use of it during his life.

"In Ohio a married woman can make a will.

"The term "joint property," is incorrect—as all property not belonging to the wife at the time of her marriage, or given, or bequeathed to her afterwards, which may be acquired during coverture, whether it be so acquired by the industry of the wife or husband, or both, belongs to, and is considered the sole property of the husband.

"No part of the property of the wife, any more than of the husband, is exempt from taxation in Ohio.

"In reference to eligibility of women to the offices named, I see nothing positively forbidding it; although I should not suppose that any person other than an elector would be eligible to offices of trust and responsibility under our State Government.

"The other points stated by Mrs. Bronson are in the main correct."

While the laws of this State are better than we were at first led to suppose, they are still behind the laws of New York; and we were only wrong in our statement of them so far as relates to personal property.

In New York, the statutes of 1848 and 1849 secure to the wife not only the possession of her personal property, but also of the rents, issues, and profits of her real estates, free and clear of all claim thereto by her husband. In Ohio the wife retains her personal property, while the rents, issues, and profits of her real estate go to her husband—as they always did, and still do by the Common Law. This is an important difference; for it often happens that the whole or principal part of the wife's property consists in lands and houses. And in such case she is as dependant as though she were penniless. The rents and profits of her property may be squandered at the groggery, or the gaming table, and she has no redress. She may be compelled to toil to support herself and children, while the income which should go to their support is recklessly squandered by the husband's intemperance, or lack of business capacity; and she is helpless to prevent it. The law gives him the right to collect, and to spend her money, without so much as consulting her.

In this State too, as elsewhere, a wife is denied the right to her own earnings; and no matter how much she may gain as the fruits of her own industry, the husband can pocket every farthing of it, and spend it, if he chose, for whisky, while his family are suffering for bread.

It will be seen, then, that there is still room for improvement in the laws of Ohio,—still work enough for woman to do to secure to herself her just rights.

We feel greatly obliged to Mrs. Bronson for calling our attention to this subject again, and giving us an opportunity, not only to become better acquainted with the laws ourself, but to place them before the women of the State. It is a subject in which we take a deep interest, and on which we should be sorry to be misled, or to be the means of misleading others.

The mistake in our statement of January 1st, was occasioned, deubtless, by a misunderstanding. The lawyer consulted supposed our friend referred only to the husband's interest in the wife's real estate.

NETTE CLIFTON, JUNIUS, and several others, send us communications eulogising THE LILY, and asking for it the favor of the public. While such commendations are very gratifying to us personally, we fear they would not be as acceptable to our readers. Besides it would look a little like vanity in us to fill our paper up with communications of this kind. Our readers all, doubtless, think THE LILY about right, and so they do not care to have others tell them its merits, but would prefer subjects of greater usefulness and interest. So please, friends, tell us privately what you think of our LILY, and let what you write for the public be of a nature that will interest, enlighten and instruct. Remember you write not for our eye, or our benefit alone, but for our thousands of readers also.

I. O. of G. T.

In the last number of THE LILY we expressed doubts about the Independant Order of Good Templars being introduced into this State very soon. But all such doubts are now removed, and we have the pleasure of announcing to the brothers and sisters in New York and Pennsylvania that already the Order has obtained foothold not only in the State, but in Mount Vernon. On Saturday evening, the 4th inst., a Lodge was instituted here with thirty-three charter members. All seem highly pleased with its workings, and if we may judge the end by the beginning, it will rapidly increase in numbers and soon become an efficient auxiliary in the temperance reform. This Lodge was organized under the direction of Mr. D. C. BLOOMER, who has been authorized by the Grand Lodge of North America to institute Lodges in Ohio, and who will be happy, as we shall also be, to give any informotion in reference to the Order, that may be desired.

We learn that one other Lodge has been instituted in this State, at Conneaut, called the "Buckeye Lodge." This was opened by W. SKEELS, D. G. W. C. T., who was commissioned by the Grand Lodge at its last session, to open new Lodges in this State. Mr. SKEELS writes us that he intends soon to enter upon his work in earnest, and that he will spend his time for the ensuing year in this State exclusively.

We shall with pleasure aid Bro. SKEELS in the work in which he is engaged; and if there should be a desire to obtain a visit from him by persons residing in any part of the State, we will cheerfully transmit to him their wishes in the matter. Letters addressed to Bro. Skeels to our care at this place, will be promptly forwarded to him.

In reference to the objects, and general principles of the Independent Order of Good Templars, we will say for the information of those who may desire to know more of the order, that it is a Temperance organization in the fullest sense of the term. Each member is pledged not to make, buy, sell, or use as a beverage any spirituous or malt liquors, wine or cider, and to discountenance the manufacture and sale thereof in all proper ways.

Males and females, of over twelve years of age may be admitted to this Order for such sum as may be fixed by the By-Laws, not less than fifty cents.

The regular weekly dues shall be at the discretion of each Lodge, but not less than one cent for each member.

No benefits are required to be paid by the Constitution, but each Lodge is left to regulate that matter as it may deem best.

There are three degrees in this Order.

Not less than ten persons must sign the application for a new Lodge. The charter fee is six dollars.

These are the leading features of the Order as presented to the public in its printed Constitution and By-Laws. To those who have been initiated, other features of still greater excellence are apparent, but those we cannot allude to here. This much however we will say, the pledge is taken under circumstances of greater solemnity, the guards thrown around the members to prevent them from failing are more certain to accomplish their purpose, and the obligations to resist the tempter are stronger than those furnished by other Orders with which we are personally acquainted. For the great purpose of advancing the cause of Temperance, and of bringing all classes, ages and sexes,

harmoniously to work together, the Good Templars present claims not excelled by, and we believe superior to, any other Temperance Order yet established.

Of course to those who believe that woman should not work together with man in the temperance cause, this Order presents insuperable objections.

No man who is not willing to admit woman to an entire equality with himself in labors, duties, honors and offices—who is not willing that her vote should be deposited with his in the same ballot box, and her voice be raised with his on all questions relating to its affairs, need apply for membership in this Order. But the number of such men is small indeed, and is daily growing beautifully less. This feature of the Good Templars we believe to be one of its chief excellences—and which, more than any other, will commend the Order to the hearty approval of the liberal minded and right thinking portion of the temperance community.

☞ We have frequently heard the assertion made since we came to Mount Vernon that this is a strong temperance town,—that the sentiment of the people generally is on the side of temperance. If this be so, will some one tell us why the traffic in intoxicating drinks is suffered to continue—why men are permitted to openly deal out the poison, and daily send out from their dens the youth of the city in a state of beastly intoxication? And why, if the people are all so strong in their temperance principles, and if they have a board of temperance officers—why are these moral corrupting, youth destroying establishments allowed to send out their victims at an hour of the night when all honest people are in bed, to make night hideous by their yells and groans—their oaths and curses? Did this occur in the corrupt city of New York, or elsewhere, these night rowdies would be marched to the lock-up, and taught a lesson that might be a benefit to them. But here it seems to be nobody's business to look after these things; and scenes are suffered to transpire night after night that are disgraceful to the city, and which give it any thing but an enviable reputation in the minds of strangers.

We cannot see as anything is gained by electing temperance officers if they will not do their duty,—and we should blush to boast that this is a temperance town, so long as we have such plain evidence, both by day and by night, that the groggeries are openly and boldly pursuing their death dealing business, and that they find plenty of victims with which to fill the drunkard's ranks.

These things seem to us very strange; but as it may all be owing to our womanly ignorance, we seek light on the subject.

"Will you not sometime revisit your old home? If so, I wish in advance to secure a visit from you here."

The friend who puts the above question is assured that if all is well, we shall visit our old home about the time of the annual gathering of the temperance women, in June. We will enter upon our memorandum his kind invitation, with the note underneath, as requested, and then if time and circumstances permit when we visit old Seneca, we will slip away for a day or two to meet the friends in Wayne, and entertain, with our womanly talk, that great audience he promises us. But the time is a great way off yet, so we can make no engagement.

THE CLERGY.

The poor clergymen receive so much censure—and so justly too—from reformers, on accout of their opposing and hindering many of the efforts made for the amelioration of society, and especially those questions relating to woman, and in which woman is herself an actor, that it does our heart good when we can say a word in their defence.

It is, therefore, with peculiar pleasure that we copy the following paragraph from a private letter of a good friend of ours—an Episcopal clergyman, and our former pastor:

"As for the subject of "Woman's Rights," I am for the reform; believing that in many respects women have been made sufferers by the tyranny of man, and the laws of the land; not only in the security of property, but in wages; and I am glad to see them filling the occupations of the sterner sex, and claiming their wages for their labor as artists and mechanics."

This is by no means a solitary instance of the sympathy of clergymen in our movements. We meet with many such, of the various denominations, who are ready to give us a hearing, and a hearty encouragement and "God speed," in our labors.

It is too true that the majority of this class of men stand aloof from the humanitarian questions of the day, and exert their influence to prejudice people against them, and to prevent their hearing the truth; yet it is no less true that there are among them many warm-hearted, earnest and true men; and for this reason the charges brought by reformers should be limited. We find that it is with clergymen as with other people; there are some very open and liberal, and others very conservative and bigoted. Some would think it a desecration to allow a woman to lecture in their church; while others not only freely offer their church for temperance, but also for "Woman's Rights" lectures. Some think it an abomination for woman to speak in public on any subject, while others express the wish that there were a hundred to take the platform in behalf of temperance where there is but one now. We have discoursed on both temperance and Woman's Rights from the pulpits of Presbyterian, Methodist, and Baptist churches, and have had clergymen for listeners. The letter of Mrs. Gage, in this number of The Lily, will testify to the same liberality on the part of clergymen. While we would by no means excuse those who so coldly and scornfully turn away from the discussion of the woman question, we yet feel unwilling to see the more liberal classed with them, and subjected to censure.

We are led to these remarks by reading two letters, now before us, in which the writers complain that the people are hindered in the cause of temperance by the opposition of clergymen to their movements. The same mail brought the letter of our friend, the clergyman, whom we have quoted above, and that of Mrs. Gage, in which she speaks of receiving sympathy and a "God speed" from the pastors of the churches in which she lectured. We regard one as a fair offset to the other.

We give to the opinions of clergymen, whether they are with, or against us, the same weight that we do to the opinions of other men; for as they possess a human nature in common with others, their opinions and their influence will be according as they are noble, great and good, or narrow-minded, prejudiced, and bigoted. The position they occupy gives them great influence over the people, either for good or for evil; and it is a great pity that they do not always exert it for good.

We know of no other course for reformers to pursue but to be sure they are right, and then "go ahead," without regard to the opposition of the clergy, or any other class of individuals.

☞ The editor of the Zanesville *Gazette* seem to be offended because we did not *thank* him for calling our Lily "a feeble little flower," and for his prophecy that it would be "crushed and mangled" in its struggle for the right. He charges us with being *bearish*, and *tigerish* in our defence of our bantling, and in our notice of the *Times*. Sorry we are that the *Gazette* has so misunderstood us. The truth of the matter is, that so far from feeling *bearish* in noticing the matters in question, we were in the best possible humor with both him and ourself—and the editor of the *Times*. True, we did feel a little indignant that he should predict so sad an end to our pet on its first blossoming in Ohio; and had we not had strong faith in the correctness of its principles, and the growing liberality and desire for truth among the people, we might have felt a little discouraged. But then, after his sad prophecy, he bade us have "courage;" and this atoned for all the wrong done us; and we answered him in a spirit more sportive than *bearish*.

We thank our brothers of the *Gazette* for their kind advice in telling us that we must "learn to bear and forbear;" and in return we would say to them that they must learn to take as good as they give—especially when dealing with "a woman."

Acknowledgments.—Letters containing money for The Lily have been received from the following persons since our last number was issued:

A. E. Bardeen, Jane W. Gilmore, D. C. Higgins, Sarah J. Mundy, M. C. Callanan, Z. T. Petty, E. W. R. Allen, E. M. Griffing, (3,) Mrs. J. Pierce, H. K. Brown, H. A. Ferguson, A. S. Pound, J. M. Lyon, Mrs. N. E. Winslow, Mrs. F. B. Winslow, F. C. Frary, S. S. Rice, E. S. Taylor, (2,) H. Hiatt, Elda A Smith, Miss E. Buel, Elvira L. Woodruff, Ellen F. Randal, C. Farnham, J. W. Reed, D. P. Holmes, C. C. Wells, A. A. Greenwood, W. D. Fielding, Esther Allen, A. C. Paul, M. A. Merritt, N. Baker, Mrs. S. B. Newcomb, S. H. Crawford, Mary E. Titus, Mrs. H. M. Cole, Olive S. Houghton, William Weller, H. Morgan, Mary Field, Mrs. George Steele, R. Hamilton, Clara F. True, J. T. Wilbur, T. J. Jones, Thomas Shotwell, Jane E. Walton, Jane Frohock, Alice Bingham, Irene B. Merwin, M. Ada Hale, Mrs. M. U. Fitch, D. Maginnis, M. J. P. H. J. Harwood, W. D. Sunderlin, Clara Bacon, Mrs. P. T. Thompson, Nancy J. Webster, Cordelia A. Peck, Jesse Atwell.

☞ The following forms of Petition were sent us by Mrs. C. M. Severance, of Cleveland, who is one of a committee to present them to the Legislature. It is earnestly desired that all into whose hands they may fall, will consider themselves a committee to circulate them for signatures; and for that purpose they can be copied, or cut from the paper, and attached to a sheet of writing paper. It will be best to keep them separate, as some persons may be inclined to sign one and not the other. We hope the friends of this movement will volunteer in the circulation of these petitions, and that they may be largely signed by the men and women of the State. The time given is all too short, however, for a great deal to be accomplished, and we much regret that the work was not entered upon sooner.

Those who circulate the petitions will please return them to Mrs. C. M. Severance, Cleveland Ohio, as early as the 25th inst.

To the General Assembly of the State of Ohio:

The undersigned, inhabitants of the State of Ohio, respectfully petition your Honorable Body, to so amend the laws of our State, as to secure to women equal rights with men in the holding and disposing of property.

To the General Assembly of the State of Ohio:

The undersigned, inhabitants of the State of Ohio, respectfully petition your Honorable Body, to take the preliminary steps to amend the Constitution of our State, so as to secure to *Women*, the Elective Franchise.

☞ Exchange papers please copy.

From the Western Home Visitor.

GOLDEN RULES FOR WIVES.

Resolve every morning to be cheerful that day, and should anything occur to break your resolution, suffer it not to put you out of temper with your husband. Dispute not with him, be the subject what it may, but rather deny yourself the satisfaction of having your own will, or gaining the better of an argument, than risk a quarrel or create a heart-burning which it is impossible to see the end of. Implicit submission of a man to his wife is ever so disgraceful to both, but implicit submission in a wife to the will of her husband is what she promised at the altar, what the good will revere her for, and what is, in fact, the greatest honor she can receive. Be assured a woman's power, as well as her happiness, has no other foundation than her husband's esteem and love, which it is her interest by all possible means, to preserve and increase, share and sooth his cares, and with the utmost assiduity, conceal his errors.—*Exchange.*

Faugh! on such twaddle! "Golden rules for wives"—"Duty of wives"—how sick we are at the sight of such paragraphs! Why don't our wise editors give us now and then some "golden rules" for husbands by way of variety? Why not tell us of the promises men make at the altar, and of the injunction "husbands love your wives even as your own selves?" "Implicit submission of a man to his wife is disgraceful to both, but implicit submission in a wife to the will of her husband is what she promised at the altar." What nonsense!—what absurdity!—what downright injustice! A *disgrace* to a man to yield to the wishes of his wife, but an *honor* to a wife to yield implicit obedience to the commands of her husband, be he good or bad—just or unjust—a kind husband, or a tyrannical master. Oh! how much of sorrow, of shame and unhappiness has such teachings as the above occasioned. Master and slave! Such they make the relationship existing between husband and wife;—and oh! how fearfully, cruelly has woman been made to feel that he who promised at the altar to love, cherish and protect her, is but a legalized master and tyrant.

But we deny that woman promises such "implicit submission at the altar." We deny that it is any more her duty to make her husband's happiness her study, than it is his business to study her happiness. We deny that it is a woman's duty to love or obey her husband unless he prove himself worthy of her love, and unless his requirements are just and reasonable. We regard the tie of marriage as too sacred a relationship to require, or admit of commands on the one hand, and obedience on the other. It is a union of two equal, intelligent, immortal beings in a life partnership, and in which each should study the pleasure and the happiness of the other, and mutually share the joys, and bear the burthens of life. Neither can lay their *commands* on the other—neither can yield implicit submission to such commands without disgrace to both.

Ah! that little word "*obey*"—how much mischief has it done!—how much wrong and injustice has it sanctioned!—how many lives has it embittered!—to how many joyous, happy, confiding women has it brought a life of trial suffering and, wretchedness—and finally an early grave! It is the great cause of domestic bickerings and unhappiness—of quarrels and separations—of undutiful, immoral and vicious children.

Thanks to the light that is shed over the minds of the clergy, that ugly word is fast going into disuse in the marriage ceremony. And thanks to the spirit of progress and free enquiry which is abroad over the land, woman is beginning to be looked upon as an intelligent being, possessing equal rights and privileges with her brother; and she will yet be regarded as his companion and equal, instead of as a child or a slave, created solely to minister to his appetites and passions, and be in all things obedient to his will and pleasure.—Oh! it should be a shame to a man to admit that he regards his wife as his inferior, and that he requires submission from her to his will. And the day will come when men will blush to own that they have wives whom they can treat like children, or slaves; and when woman will blush—yea utterly refuse to promise obedience to the man with whom she unites her destiny, and scorn to be treated as an inferior and subject.

There are no nobler examples of perfect happy connubial relations, and reciprocal love, than is presented when man looks upon, and treats his wife as his equal in all things, and extends to her the same respect and consideration which he looks for from her. It is only when woman is treated as a subordinate—when man assumes authority over her actions and exacts obedience to his will, that she rebels, and unhappiness and contentions ensue. But when she is treated as an equal—her feelings consulted, her opinions listened to and respected, her rights undisputed and her intelligence undoubted, it perfects her in all the virtues which adorn a woman, calls forth all the better feelings of her nature, and fits her to be, what at her creation it was designed she should be, man's companion and helpmeet. Let men be to their wives, what they would that their wives should be to them.—This is the only "golden rule" worthy to be observed; and the only one that will guide to esteem and true happiness. A. B.

☞ The ladies are wide awake for Temerance in Ravenna. A friend writing us from that place says, "through their (the ladies) influence we elected a Mayor and Town Council; and we have been blest with an ordinance suppressing the sale of all intoxicating liquors. Now we will use all our influence to get the Maine Law in the State."

☞ We feel greatly mortified to have THE LILY printed on such poor black paper; but it is the best we could obtain any where in this section.—We hope we shall not be compelled to use the like again.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE LILY.

From Mrs. Albro.

HOLLAND, Erie Co., N. Y., Jan. 22, '54.

Pardon me, my dear Mrs. Bloomer, for neglecting so long to write you, to tell you why I was not with you at the Convention recently held in Ohio.

My reason is, I could not learn when or where the convention was to be held, until the time had passed. I kept a watchful eye upon all the papers, hoping to see a notice of it; but not seeing THE LILY as usual, or the *Carson League*, in whose columns I expected to get the desired information, I failed. You may be well assured the disappointment to me was not small. I had looked forward to the time when I hoped to meet face to face, and take by the hand in a true friendly grasp, one who had so faithfully and earnestly labored to raise the yoke which laws and custom had unfeelingly thrown upon us. But disappointment is the common lot of all. Perhaps I had lotted too much on that friendly greeting, for I confess that often when preparing for the discharge of evening duties, memory of the past would come thronging round, when my friend of "THE LILY" was with us in our little gatherings, to cheer by her presence, and encourage by her counsels, and thus add strength to the band of earnest hearts that were laboring in the cause of the oppressed. And even when the shades of night had closed around, and "Sleep stole o'er my brows," the busy mind which never sleeps, would hie away to that "Western home of thine;" and then, dear sister, 'twas no *cold finger touch* with which I was welcomed to your home and fireside. O! may I say it, I hate the cold touch of *"finger ends."* If my own heart is ever so warm, it sends the blood chilling and curdling back to the heart,—the fountain from whence all our kindly feelings flow—and a barrier is thus raised which seems to close the avenues against all commingling of soul with soul. Give to me the grasp of the hand that bespeaks a *genuine soul* encased within the tenement of clay—a soul which throws off the shackles, and rises above the foolish nothings which too often characterize modern fashions and customs.

I took a severe cold the last of December, which affected my lungs seriously,—so much so that I was obliged to suspend my labors for nearly two weeks. Indeed I began to think I should be under the necessity of giving up travelling entirely for the winter. My labors through the fall were very arduous, and I overtaxed myself. I am much better now, and have resumed my labors. If my health will admit, I shall continue in Erie county till the last of February. This is a missionary field; the people here think, however, that they are nearly right. A gentleman here informed me that there were not more than four men in this place who would not vote for the Maine Law;—yet there are licensed rum shops. I cannot learn that Temperance papers are very well patronized here. I speak this evening, and shall make an effort to induce the people to supply their families with them.

I must tell you a little incident which happened the other day, while riding in the omnibus from Buffalo to Aurora. A gentleman in whose company I was, introduced me to another gentleman, Esq. Jones, of Aurora, telling him my business, and that I would lecture in his village the next evening. He received me very cordially, and I found him to be a true Maine Law man. Of course the conversation turned upon that subject. Some two or three other men in the omnibus joined in the conversation,—all on the right side, to appearance, but one. I had my doubts of his genuineness. He said if our society prohibited the use of Tea, Coffee and Tobacco, as well as rum, "he was with us." I gave him our constitution. Some remarks from the man, together with certain fumes which emenated from the region where he sat rather weakened my faith in his temperance principles. He, however, appeared more of the gentleman than did another who sat a silent listener, and who undoubtedly preferred signifying his principles in *actions* rather than in *words*. He was a fine looking man, well dressed, in company with two ladies and a young girl. We soon came to a Hotel where they changed horses. This *gentleman* went into the Hotel and brought out a glass

of *strong beer*, which he presented to the young girl. I don't know whether the ladies partook of the beverage or not, for I felt disgusted and turned my head away lest I should see them drink. The glass was emptied of its contents and returned again to the bar—to be filled and drained again by another customer a little more degraded.

The young girl had complained of being sick, and undoubtedly the beer was given *as a medicine*; but she said 'it was good," and I thought to myself, she might again be *sick*, and call for the same kind of *medicine* that *tasted so good*. I learned the next day that this *gentleman* (?) was a *Minister of the Gospel!* I will leave this for others to moralize upon; and thank God that such *ministers*, at this enlightened age of the world, are few and far between.

Such circumstances as these, serve to inspire me with renewed zeal in the work in which I am engaged, and to convince me that Legislative enactments alone can save, not only the already degraded, but also the young and innocent from being led into ruin by those who should protect them from harm and danger.

I have not seen the report of your Convention. Hope it passed off agreeable to your wishes, and great good to the cause, result from the deliberations of those philanthropic spirits who gathered there. While we are struggling to gain a victory over the combined forces of the rum power in our own State, we do not forget our sisters of a sister State, who have banded themselves together with the temperance armor on, and who, like us, have raised a banner on which is inscribed *No compromise with rum!*

That you may prove to the Sisters of Ohio, an able and efficient standard bearer in their ranks, as you ever did in ours, and that the blessings of Heaven may crown your labors and give you strength, is the heartfelt desire of your co-worker.

H. Attilia Albro.

From Mrs. Gage.

Jerseyville, Ill., Jan. 28, 1853.

Dear Mrs. Bloomer—Never did I sit myself down to address you with a heart so full of hope for our great missions—Woman's Rights and Temperance—as I do this day. Two weeks ago I left my home in St. Louis, crossed over into Illinois, and commenced a course of lectures on the elevation of woman, in this grand young prairie State. My first stop was in Alton; but the weather was exceedingly cold, and my lectures there rather sparsely attended—though nearly a hundred listened each evening. The *press*—two dailies—spoke kindly and fairly; not one ungentlemanly squib, or uncivil remark. The "Sons of Temperance" gave me an invitation to lecture in their hall on Sabbath eve; and I did so, to a crowded audience of intelligent and deeply attentive people. From there, by invitation, I went to Corlinville, a village on the railroad, of near one thousand people. Spoke two evenings to full houses in the Methodist church. Here, too, I was urged to speak on Temperance, but could not on account of other engagements.

From there I came to this place—a beautiful prairie village of twelve or fifteen hundred inhabitants, with fine schools, &c., and here I have given three lectures on the subject of Woman's Rights to audiences as full as the Methodist church and Court House could well seat—(one night in the Court House, it being the regular evening for weekly prayer meeting.) The pastors of the Congregational and Methodist churches have listened to me each evening; and the latter, a venerable man, has blessed my mission without dissenting from an opinion I have uttered; and the former says that women who pay taxes ought to vote; but he doubts the expediency of equality in the home.

Jan. 29th.—Last evening, by the invitation of the Sons of Temperance, I lectured again on Temperance in the Methodist church, to a crowded house. Say not that our mission is useless, when for four nights in succession a woman's voice—a wife and mother, pleading for a higher and holier privilege for wives and mothers—pleading for temperance—pleading through deep love for the human race, can be listened to with deep, earnest and increasing interest. Truly, it seems to me, "the harvest is ready, and the laborers are few."

How idle is the everlasting cry, "women are content as they are." *'Tis false*—women are uneasy, chafing and fretting, in the hard, cramping harness that society has put on them. No matter if their own hands have buckled it on; no matter if they do persist in wearing it, it galls and fetters them nevertheless; and but that a harder obstacle is to be overcome in the force of habit, and public opinion, they would, many of them, cast it aside at once. But when they find one bold enough to openly avow such sentiments—to meet the public scorn and odium—to stand for the right with unflinching nerve—how their hearts leap for joy; how their eyes glisten with the starting tear of sympathy; and many a silent grasp of the hand—many a whispered "God bless you," tells of the dark unrest, and earnest longing of the crushed spirit within, and cheers me onward in my great mission.

I will let you know from time to time, how wags this great western world.

In all the small towns temperance is becoming a great topic. How all these reforms run together—all working for good!

Yours, Truly, Frances D. Gage.

Written for The Lily.

WOMAN'S SPHERE.

BY H** B***.

'Tis often asked, " what 's woman's sphere ?"
And often said, " your place 's not here;"
And all because she'd banish rum,
Or lead the erring wanderer home.

When pain and sickness makes all drear,
Some men will cry " your place is here ;"
Watch o'er my couch by day and night,
'Tis woman's sphere, 'tis all aright."

" This is thy place," these men will say,
" Toil on, toil on, through night and day ;
The sleepless nights you need not mind,
For 'tis the sphere of woman-kind."

But ask thy *rights*, or dare complain,
How soon you'll hear these words again—
" Away, away, 'tis not thy sphere,—
'Tis not the place for woman here."

Some ladies, too, already stand
To join these men—this heartless band ;—
Dare lift thy head, and not in fear,
They'll join the cry, " not woman's sphere."

An equal be to lordly man :
Be not a slave, like the African !
Plead, plead thy cause, 'tis woman's sphere,
Till man shall yield thy rights so dear.

[Cincinnati correspondence.]

Eclectic Medical Institute--Female Physicians, &c.

* * * * With the noble and gifted Buchanan of whom most of you have heard, at its head, the prosperity of the " Eclectic Medical Institute " exceeds the most sanguine expectations of its friends. Two hundred young men of real American blood, and zeal, daily throng its halls. Each eye bespeaks enthusiasm, and a yearning after truth. Also nine ladies preparing themselves for the medical profession, are freely admitted and welcomed to the lectures. Thus to woman is given the privilege of obtaininig that knowledge which in former days was claimed exclusivly by the other sex—it being "*unlady like*, and out of her sphere" to progress thus far up the hill of Science." We trust, however that the day is dawning when her *sphere* shall be so augmented as to allow her a position equal to that of the other sex—at least in the medical profession. "Woman's rights" that are so much talked about, we do not plead for, or strenuously advocate, but we do say it is her *right*, her *privilege*, yea more, her *duty*, to so educate herself that she may lesson the sufferings of humanity if possible. As to the other professions I have nothing to say against her entering upon them. On the contrary I would glory in seeing her attain the highest station of which humanity is capable in any of them; but in the one in question there seems to be more need of her laboring immediately, actively and efficiently. When mankind have arrived at that stage of perfection when each and every one understands the highest laws of his being and abides by them, we trust no "doctors" of either sex will be required. Then we have only to pray, and hope, and believe, that the day may soon arrive when people shall so live that none need sit from seven to nine hours per day for two or three years to learn the "thousand ills to which flesh is heir;" and their more than thousand remedies. (?)

It makes me heart sick and desponding oftentimes to think and to realize how full of disease the human family are. How very few we can find with perfect health! Scarcely one in a thousand. "And will they ever be well?" do I hear it asked? Yes, I trust they will; but many, many years will elapse before *all* will get well, except as spirits take their flight from their diseased tenements.

For some time past there has been much excitement in the city in regard to the riot of Christmas eve, of which your readers, if they have read the papers, probably know more than myself. I have read, heard and witnessed a little occasionally, and know that there is generally much indignation on the part of the people toward the police; that Bedini has been burned in effigy; and that the trial terminated yesterday; or at least I understood it did, yet have not learned its final decision. The next thing of general interest to Cincinnatians is "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which has been played both at the Melodeon and Theater for a number of weeks, to overflowing houses. If you should be in the city and not visit poor "Uncle Tom," you would be decidedly unpopular. Much good I think must result from introducing a play of so much interest and instruction in our theaters.

Yours, as ever, A. H. Bunker.

Rhode Island Liquor Law.—The bill to repeal the Liquor Law and substitute a license system, with no liquor to be drank on the premises, was laid on the table in the Rhode Island Senate on the 10th inst., by a test vote of 17 to 7.

Mrs. Emma R. Coe stated a few days since in a lecture at New York, that it was her purpose shortly to test the disposition of our courts towards women, by offering herself for admission to the bar of that State.

—The State Temperance Society of Massachusetts recently addressed a circular to *all* the clergymen of that State, asking them this question: "Are you in favor of the prohibitory principle and main features of the anti-liquor law of Massachusetts?" To this question, responses have been received from *five hundred and fourty-four* clergymen, which must be a large majority of the Protestant ministers in the State—of whom *five hundred and thirty-seven* say Yes, and seven only answer No.

WESTERN HOME VISITOR.

D. C. BLOOMER.....Editor.
AMELIA BLOOMER.....Associate Editor.

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